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KEN BALLARD, OWNER

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ROCKETS & SUPPLIES

October 29, 1979

Bob Fabris
ARCADIAN
3626 Morrie Drive
San Jose, CA 95127

Dear Bob:

Sorry I haven't responded before, but our household has been busy running a medieval fair locally, and I've been too busy with the Middle Ages to keep up with the 20th century.

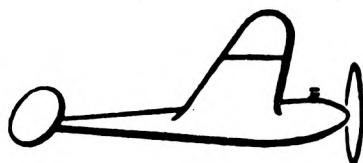
The motherboard you describe in your insert sounds fine! I am most interested in obtaining one!

In fact, ABC would like to act as a distribution agent in the midwest, if something like this can be worked out. I realize that this item cannot be advertised, but we reach most of the Bally owners in a three-state area by word of mouth, and we have a growing mailing list--both Arcadians and non-Arcadians. Also, a distribution arrangement would save potential purchasers mailing costs and/or waiting time.

As soon as you have an idea of the price range for this unit, let me know. If you plan to make motherboard only available, perhaps we could take this unit, add a JE610 keyboard and a case, and offer it complete and ready-to-go. Let me know if you think this would mesh with what you have in mind.

Our local Bally distributor is still promising--and still not delivering --Space Invaders and Bally Pin cartridges. Each time I ask, the projected delivery date moves back two more weeks. Are chips really that scarce, or is Bally winding down production in preparation for discontinuing the unit. A dealer I heard from in Ohio claims Bally has definite plans now to release THEIR expander in 1980, in the wake of the favorable FCC decisions recently, but I see no evidence. In fact, the Bally sales rep I spoke with 3 weeks ago at my local distributor's show wanted me to play down the computer expandability idea all together, and concentrate on selling it as a video game! (This despite the fact that they have released no new cartridges in over 6 months!)

I heard from Tim Hays of Seebree's Computing this week. It seems he's had a run of bad luck recently, capped by a stay in



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the hospital and a broken right hand! This, plus parts availability problems, has pushed back his hardware building schedule somewhat, but he expects to be caught up soon. I am anxiously awaiting delivery on his organ-type music keyboard peripheral. I recently saw some of his software, and was very impressed by his documentation and instruction sheets. They are very clear and complete.

Almost everyone still seems to be using inferior-quality cassettes. Fortunately, Bally BASIC and the interface are very forgiving. My advice to ANYONE who buys commercial software, however, is to make a work copy IMMEDIATELY on a good quality cassette, and to store the original safely. Originals on low-quality cassettes don't last long--they develop dropout if used heavily.

My subscription renewal and payment for the book you sent me is coming under separate cover. I don't think you'll lose anyone because of the price indrease. You are doing a fine job of acting as an information clearinghouse, and your efforts are greatly appreciated by all Arcadians.

I expect to get back to some Bally projects left long unfinished, soon. More later on those. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Guy W. McLimore, Jr.
ABC Hobbycraft

NEW HOME ADDRESS: Guy W. McLimore, Jr.
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Evansville, IN 47714